

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DEBORAH R. GILG DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

12 Sentenced in Conspiracy to Distribute Illegal Drugs in Western Nebraska

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United States Attorney Deborah R. Gilg announced that on July 8, 2011, Braulio Lara was sentenced to 108 months imprisonment. Braulio Lara was the last of 12 defendants to be sentenced by United States District Judge Joseph Bataillon, as part of an OCDETF investigation titled Caballo de Troya (Trojan Horse) in the panhandle area of Nebraska including Scotts Bluff and Morrill Counties. The defendants included both United States citizens as well as illegal aliens working together to bring methamphetamine, and cocaine into western Nebraska. The defendants and their sentences are as follows:

Angel Aguilar Galindo, age 35, of Sinaloa, Mexico - 188 months Augustin Gomez, age 31, of Scottsbluff, Nebraska - 188 months Santiago Campos, age 22, of Sinaloa, Mexico - 120 months Jesus Leon Aguirre age 23, of Phoenix, Arizona - 120 months Javier Jimenez Ramos, age 35, of Scottsbluff, Nebraska - 120 months Misty Jimenez, age 25, of Scottsbluff, Nebraska - 120 months Braulio Lara, age 36, of Scottsbluff, Nebraska - 108 months Shannon Rojas, age 28, of Scottsbluff, Nebraska - 96 months Rafael Velasquez, age 35, of Scottsbluff, Nebraska - 87 months Salvador Arriaga, age 21, of Scottsbluff, Nebraska - 60 months Seth Roland, age 28, of Minatare, Nebraska - 60 months Carlos Cabrera age 37, of Scottsbluff, Nebraska - 57 months

Using a cooperating individual to make recorded purchases of narcotics, investigators were able to infiltrate the organization starting from the lowest level dealers like Salvador Arriaga and Seth Roland to the top of the organization Angel Aguilar-Galindo. Fifteen grams of cocaine, 3.5 pounds of methamphetamine, two (2) SKS assault rifles, one (1) AK-47 assault rifle (stolen), 2 (two) .22 caliber rifles (1 stolen), one (1) .357 caliber pistol, two (2) sawed off shotguns, a Cadillac Escalade, a Chevrolet Silverado pickup, \$9,000 U.S. currency and \$16,000 in stolen jewelry were seized as a result of this investigation.

U.S. Attorney Gilg said "These convictions and prison sentences demonstrate that we cannot be complacent about the far-reaching grasp of the Mexican Cartel into Nebraska. Protecting our children and communities from the tragic combination of drugs and guns is one of our highest law enforcement priorities."

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration with assistance from members of the Western Nebraska Intelligence and Narcotics Group (WING) Task Force including local law enforcement from the Gering Police Department, the Scottsbluff Police Department, the Scotts Bluff County Sheriff's Department, the Alliance Police Department and the Chadron Police Department.